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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **PHARMACIA CORPORATION** [US/US]; Global Patent Department, 700 Chesterfield Parkway West, Chesterfield, Missouri 63017-1732 (US).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **FRANCZYK, Thaddeus, S. II** [US/US]; Pfizer Global Research and Development, Chemical R & D, 7000 Portage Road, Mailstop 0200-091-201, Portage, Michigan 49001 (US). **WAGNER, Grace, M.** [US/US]; 219 Papin Avenue, Webster Groves, MO 63119 (US).
- (74) Agents: **ROEDEL, John, K., Jr.** et al.; Senniger, Powers, Leavitt & Roedel, #1 Metropolitan Square, 16th Floor, St. Louis, Missouri 63102 (US).
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(54) Title: STEROID SPIROLACTONIZATION

(57) Abstract: A steroid comprising a 17-spirolactone or corresponding open lactone structure is obtained by carbonylation of a 17-alkenyl or 17-alkynyl substrate. A 17-alkenyl intermediate may be prepared by semi-hydrogenation of a 17-alkynyl group. Multiple reaction schemes are disclosed for preparation of a 3-keto-9,11-epoxy-17-spirolactone steroid such as eplerenone. Novel intermediates are also disclosed, as well as steps for forming such novel intermediates, or converting them to further intermediates or products, by semi-hydrogenation, carbonylation, 6,7-dehydrogenation, furylation or other transformations or combinations thereof.

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